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Spring 2-1-2004

LS 152L.01: Introduction to the Humanities

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Introduction to the Humanities

LS 152L;Sec.1
Spring, 2004
MWF 10:10-11:00
General Lecture: Th 11:10-12/ULH 101
or Th 7:10-8/SS 352
LA 205

Paul A. Dietrich
Office: LA 101A
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Hours: MWF 11-12:00
& by appt.

"Classics are certain texts, events, images, rituals, symbols and persons (in which we acknowledge) a disclosure of a reality we cannot but name truth...some disclosure of reality in a moment of 'recognition' which surprises, provokes, challenges, shocks, and eventually transforms us; an experience that upsets conventional opinions and expands the sense of the possible; indeed a realized experience of that which is essential, that which endures – the presence of classics in every culture is undeniable. Their memory haunts us. Their actual effects in our lives endure and await ever new appropriations, constantly new interpretations."

David Tracy

Course Syllabus

I. *Individual and Cosmos in the Late Middle Ages* (14c)

Week of:

1/26 Introduction. Dante's **Divine Comedy**

Inferno - The Hell Descent and Damnation

Plenary Lecture 1/29 - Introduction/Medieval Art and Culture - Dietrich

2/2 **Purgatorio** - The Ascent of the Mountain and Purification

Paradiso - The Love that Moves the Sun and Beatitude

Plenary 2/5 - Dante and His Times - Drake

II. *The Early Italian Renaissance and the Wonder of the Human* (15c)

2/9 Christian Humanism and Renaissance Platonism in

Pico della Mirandola's "On the Dignity of Man"

Plenary 2/12 - Italian Renaissance Art - Chacon

2/13 Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear

III. *Faith and Freedom – Catholic Reform and the Protestant Reformation* (16c)

2/16 Washington/Lincoln Holiday - no class

2/18 The Philosophy of Christ in Erasmus and

Martin Luther's "On Christian Liberty"

Plenary 2/19 - Renaissance Humanism (Pico, Erasmus, More) - Dietrich

2/23 Satire, Social Criticism, and Reform in More's **Utopia**

Plenary 2/26 - Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation - Farr

IV. *The Exploration of the Self in the Northern Renaissance* (16c/17c)

3/1 Montaigne's 'Book of Myself' and Shakespeare's **Hamlet**

Plenary 3/4 - Shakespeare's **Hamlet** - Hunt

3/8 An Anatomy of Melancholy?: Action, Character and Criticism

3/9 Drop/add deadline

V. *The Scientific Revolution and the Birth of Modern Philosophy* (17c)

Plenary 3/11 - Descartes and Modern Philosophy - Sherman

3/15 Science and Method in Descartes' **Discourse on Method**

Plenary 3/18 - The Art of the Baroque - Hedquist

3/19 Midterm Exam

VI. *The Poetry and Art of Meditation in the Age of the Baroque* (17c)

3/22 The Erotic and the Sacred in Donne, Herbert, Crashaw, Vaughan, and Marvell

Plenary 3/25 - Classical Music (Baroque to Romantic) - Glass

3/29 - 4/2 Spring Break

VII. *The Age of the Enlightenment* (18c)

4/5 Reason and Satire - Swift, Kant, and Voltaire's **Candide**

Plenary 4/8 - The Enlightenment - Borgmann

VIII. *The Age of Revolution* (18c/19c)

4/12 The Declaration of Independence, Mary Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" and the Writings of Karl Marx

Plenary 4/15 - Marx and the Age of Revolution - Perrin

IX. *Romanticism and Realism* (19c)

4/19 Nature and the Redemptive Imagination in Wordsworth and Blake

Plenary 4/22 - Romanticism - Bigley

4/26 Suffering and Freedom in Dostoevsky's **The Brothers Karamazov**

Plenary 4/29 - The Russian Novel: Tolstoy and Dostoevsky - Justman

X. *The Modern Era: Democracy and Totalitarianism* (19c/20c)

5/3 From James Madison's "Federalist Papers #10" to Hannah Arendt's "On the Nature of Totalitarianism"

Plenary 5/6 - Modern Political Thought - Drake

Required Reading

Dante, **The Portable Dante**, Viking (Musa trans.)

More, **Utopia**, Penguin Classics

Shakespeare, **Hamlet**, Signet Edition

Descartes, **Discourse on Method**, Library of Liberal Arts

Voltaire, **Candide**, Penguin Classics

Dostoevsky, **The Brothers Karamazov**, Everyman's Library

FACPAC - LS 152

(LS 152 ERES - <http://eres.lib.umt.edu> - password "Erasmus")

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation are crucial in a class such as ours. (10 % of grade.) It is not possible to engage in a deep conversation with these books and with each other if you miss class. Therefore, three absences (or persistent tardiness) will lower your grade one letter grade. Six absences will result in failure of the course.
2. There will be occasional, brief in-class written responses to the plenary lectures during the Friday class following the lecture. (10%) No make-ups.
3. You are expected to complete the assigned reading in a timely fashion. Weekly quizzes may be needed to encourage you in this regard.
4. Thematic essays (4-5 pages) in response to two of the major readings (e.g., Dante, More or Shakespeare; Voltaire or Dostoevsky) will be due at the end of Spring break and at the end of the term, respectively. Topics to be discussed. (20% each.) No late papers. Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure of the course. (Special materials on writing will be forthcoming.)
5. There will be a midterm exam on Friday, March 19 and a final exam on Wednesday, May 12, 8-10. (20% each.)

For those who elect the P/NP option, the equivalent of a "C" is necessary for a "Pass".

"A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation." *Italo Calvino*